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Addendum

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Programme questions: proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (item 3 (b))

Programme 17. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 16th meeting, on 19 June 2000, the Committee considered programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6 (Prog.17)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 17 and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme. It was considered that the proposed programme described the essential steps which needed to be taken in order to face the challenges of economic and social development in the region. In the interest of avoiding duplication and waste, however, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) should focus in areas where its comparative advantages were strong.

4. The change in the ECLAC organizational structure was welcomed, as was its proposed subprogramme structure. The mainstreaming of the gender perspective in regional development was also welcomed.

5. It was stated that adequate reference to major international conferences should have been included in the overall orientation of the programme.

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6. It was felt that the narrative of some subprogrammes was short and did not indicate how the Commission would carry out its activities. There should have been adequate references to measures for the promotion of investment and financing and the problems of external debt. It was also observed that the approach to drug production and trafficking should have been more comprehensive and the programme should have taken into account the relationship between drugs and crime, incorporating in the strategy an integrated approach to crime and drug issues. Furthermore, the challenges arising from privatization and deregulation of economic activities, and the regulatory role of the State in controlling or monitoring the unfavourable impact of liberalization with a view to protecting consumers, especially vulnerable groups, was not adequately reflected.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly adopt programme 17 of the medium-term plan for the period 2000-2005, subject to the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 17.7 (b):

After the words "in its efforts" insert the words "to enhance early warning response capabilities for dealing with the emergence and spread of financial crises and";

(b) Paragraph 17.8 (a):

Replace the word "natural" with the word "national";

(c) Paragraph 17.9 (d):

Replace the words "eminent persons" with the words "Member States";

(d) Paragraph 17.16:

At the end of the second sentence, insert the following:

"the compatibility between economic policy (fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies) and the structural reforms that are being implemented in the region and the new types of external constraints that could result from financial globalization; to helping Member States to formulate international and regional strategies to solve the problems stemming from external indebtedness; to supporting the design and implementation of policies to strengthen domestic capacities to generate financial resources for investment, establishing appropriate institutions and instruments for channelling such resources into capital accumulation and facilitating the acceleration of the accumulation process";

(e) Paragraph 17.20:

(i) At the beginning of the third sentence, insert the words "In the context of an international integrated approach to the problems of drugs";

(ii) At the beginning of the last sentence, insert the words "International and regional cooperation and" and insert the words "and non-discriminatory" after "alternative";

(f) Paragraph 17.22:

(i) At the beginning of subparagraph (d) insert the words "strengthening of international and regional cooperation and";

(ii) Add a new subparagraph reading:

"(e) strengthening the capacity of Member States of the region to manage and mitigate the adverse social impacts of structural adjustment measures as well as the challenges of globalization problems to their economies";

(g) Paragraph 17.26:

In the fourth sentence, replace the words "gender equity" with the words "gender equality";

(h) Paragraph 17.35:

Add a new subparagraph reading:

"(f) the need to continue the work of the programme in the improvement of the regulatory function of the State in promoting the efficient operation of market mechanisms, among other regulatory functions of the State which remain valid in the regional context";

(i) Paragraph 17.39:

Delete the sentence reading "The links between economic development and the environmental policy agenda will also be determined" and in the following sentence insert the words "to assist Member States to better understand the possible" before the words "reciprocal relationships";

(j) Paragraph 17.48:

Delete the sentence reading "In the environmental sphere, selected issues relating to economic and social reforms will be examined";

(k) Paragraph 17.54 (a):

(i) After the words "institutional capacity" insert the words "as well as economic, technical and financial capacities";

(ii) Replace the words "the adverse consequences" with the words "any adverse consequences";

(l) Paragraph 17.58:

(i) In subparagraph (a), replace the words "both the public and private sectors" with the words "the public sector";

(ii) In subparagraph (a), replace the words "in a manner consistent with progress in hemispheric integration" with the words "taking into account existing regional efforts";

(iii) Insert a new subparagraph 17.58 (b) reading: "improved economic, technical and financial capacity of the countries of the region" and renumber the last subparagraph as 17.58 (c);

(m) Paragraph 17.59:

Move subparagraph (c) to paragraph 17.58 and renumber as 17.58 (d);

(n) Legislative mandates

Under "Programme 17" in the list of General Assembly resolutions, after "53/28" insert "53/172. The financial crisis and its impact on growth and development, especially in the developing countries (subprogrammes 1 and 10)" and delete the reference to General Assembly resolution 53/172 under subprogramme 10.